



Red Tail Flyer

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Plumbing projects improve conditions

Utilities shop installing new sewer, drainage systems in some facilities

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

332nd AEW Public Affairs

Running water and working restrooms are the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron utilities shop's specialty. With that in mind, the shop has a few ongoing projects to make deployed life here better.

"We help people with the convenience of indoor plumbing," said Master Sgt. James Carter, 332nd ECES utilities shop supervisor. "People feel more at home and cleaner by not having to use the portable johns."

Currently the shop is assisting KBR with a new sewer system for the dorms and the H-6 laundry trailer.

"It should take about two weeks and water outages are expected, so residents should use nearby cadillacs," said Sergeant Carter, who is an Air National Guard member from Little Rock AFB, Ark.

In addition to the dorms, the shop is also improving the Air



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Senior Airman Justin Hess, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron utility systems apprentice from Fairchild AFB, Wash., feeds a hose to Staff Sgt. Clay Hamilton, 332nd ECES utilities journeyman who's an Air National Guard member from Little Rock AFB, Ark. Sergeant Hamilton is installing a drain line to a Harvest Falcon diaphragm pump, which pumps gray water out of the Air Force Theater Hospital surgical sinks.

Force Theater Hospital's plumbing.

"We're renovating the drainage sinks within the hospital and installing new pumps and lines," he said. "We're also installing plumbing in the dental office."

Sergeant Carter said the hospital projects should be finished within a week and shouldn't impact the hospital mission.

"We are installing plumbing

to make it easier for the patients and staff and for sanitary reasons," he said.

The unit also installed indoor plumbing in the F-16 alert facility and will finish installing potable water and sewage tanks soon. The project should take about a week and a half.

Sergeant Carter also said when it rains, his shop keeps the FOD pressure washer tanks full at the entry control points.

"We definitely stay busy," Sergeant Carter said. "Besides all these ongoing projects, we get calls all the time for leaks and clogs."

Our job helps keep living conditions sanitary and is a morale booster in a hostile environment. Having indoor plumbing makes this place seem more like home."

Eye in Iraqi sky

727th EACS keeps airways clear

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

332nd AEW Public Affairs

As 1st Lt. Damian Wanliss enters his cold, dark office dimly lit by the green glare of the screen ahead, he takes a deep breath in anticipation of another day of directing traffic in the chaotic Iraqi skies.

The lieutenant, a 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron air weapons officer, is just one of about 170 Airmen supporting the unit's mission of providing command and control of joint air operations through surveillance, identification, weapons control, theater missile defense, battle management and theater communications links.

The unit is presently manned by members of the 728th ACS, out of Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. As one of only five units of

its kind in the active duty Air Force, the squadron is a completely self-contained, mobile combat unit.

"The Demons are back for our second tour supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and are in control of the skies over Iraq," said Lt. Col. Scot Shively, 727th EACS commander. "We are excited to be here during such a historic period."

Members of the 728th ACS took control of the Iraqi skies as part of Aerospace Expeditionary Force 3/4, bringing with it 27 different Air Force specialties including operations, radar, aerospace ground equipment, digital systems maintenance, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, vehicle maintenance, technical control, ground radio, communication operations, intelligence, administrative support, mission planning and satel-

lite communications. Each specialty works closely together to accomplish the mission every day, Colonel Shively said.

The operations side starts its day with the help of two massive radars, towering at about 25-feet high, on opposite ends of the base.

The machines, maintained by the 727th EACS radar shop, provide operators with an accurate picture of air traffic flow throughout the day.

"It's our radars that allow the

operators to do their mission," said Senior Airman Ronald Adair, 727th EACS ground radar systems journeyman.

"They are our eyes in the sky."

With between 40 and 80 aircraft flying in the Iraqi airspace within a 12-hour time-frame, the jobs of the surveillance technicians and weapons controllers can get

hectic, said Lieutenant

Wanliss and Tech. Sgt.

Harold Austin, 727th EACS air surveillance technician.

It's the surveillance technicians' job to make sure the air picture is accurate and all assets in the sky are identified. From there, it's up to the weapons controllers to keep the aircraft on course, make sure they don't cross paths, direct refueling support, direct aircraft for ground support and coordinate with civilian flight agencies when necessary.

Both the surveillance technicians and weapons controllers spend six hours a day, two hours at a time in an operations module, a dark 15-by-8-foot box, kept near 55 degrees, at one of four consoles identifying or directing air assets. At Balad, they deal with about 300 percent more aircraft activity than at home station, Sergeant Austin said.

"It can get pretty crazy in there at times," said Lieutenant Wanliss, "definitely more



Photo by Staff Sgt. Neal Joiner

Senior Airman William Swanson, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron surveillance technician, monitors Iraqi theater operations from an operator console unit.



Photo by Senior Airman Adam Bradford

Senior Airman Matthew Hendrickson, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron aerospace ground equipment journeyman, changes a main seal on a tactical quiet generator.

intense then we could ever prepare for back at home station. But it's a very rewarding job – one to be proud of."

The controllers admit, however, their jobs would not be possible without the 727th EACS maintenance team. Split into ten major sections with a total of 110 Airmen, the unit's maintenance mission is varied and complex, said Capt. Robert Barry, 727th EACS chief of maintenance.

"I've never been in charge of such a diverse maintenance team before," said the captain. "They really keep our mission going from maintaining our vehicle fleet and communication systems to keeping the entire unit powered. I'd have to say they are the hardest working bunch of NCOs and Airman I've ever worked with."

The maintenance team maintains more than \$80 million worth of equipment, to include a fleet of 79 M-Series vehicles and mobilizers, radar equipment, operations modules, tactical generators, environmental control units, computers and a wide array of communications equipment.

The unit's digital systems maintenance shop itself maintains about \$35 million

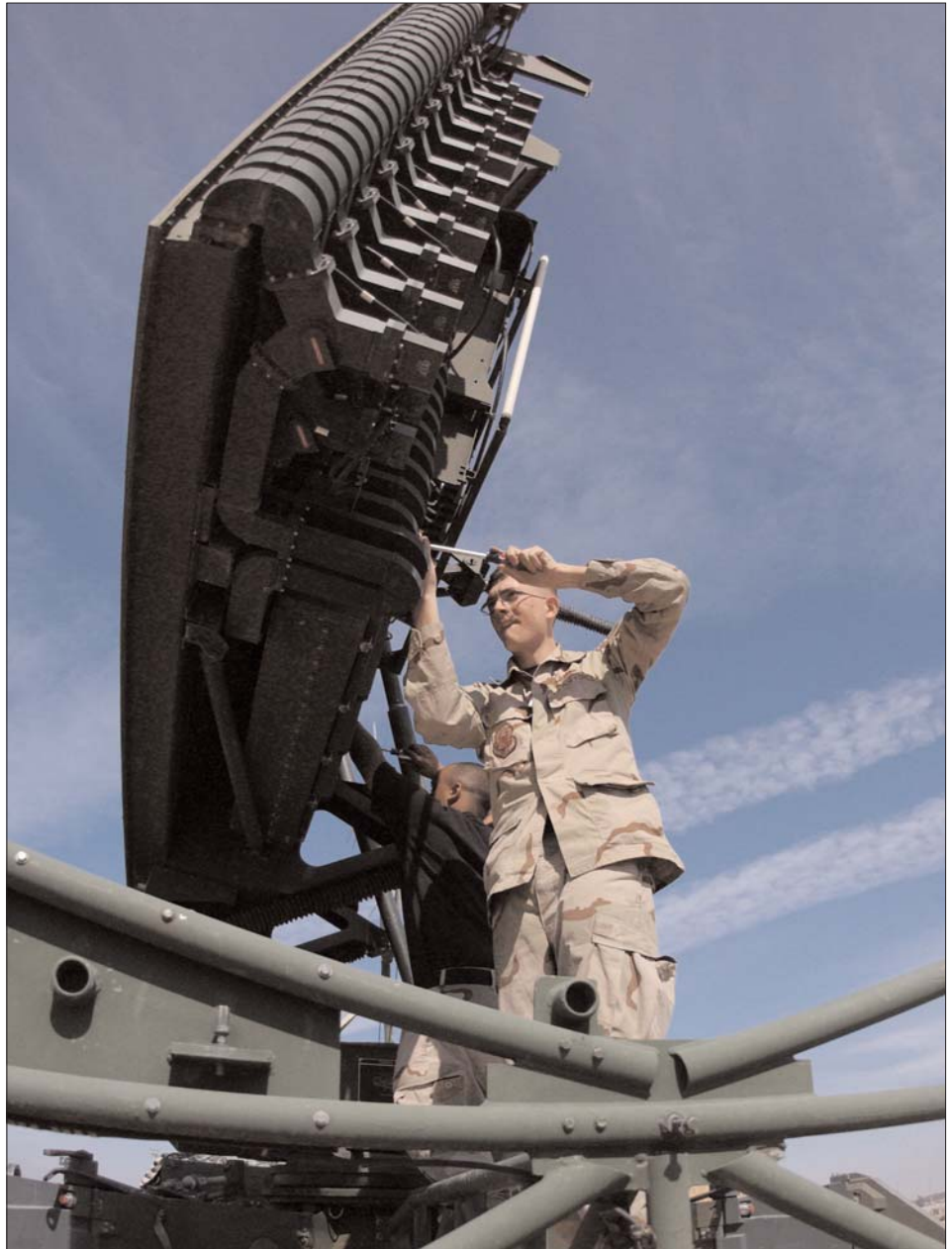


Photo by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

Staff Sgt. Jacob Getzelman (front) and Senior Airman Ronald Adair, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron ground radar systems journeymen, open the beam forming enclosure of a radar to accomplish a radio frequency receiver alignment. The alignment is critical to radar height accuracy.

worth of equipment, including the squadron's four tactical air operations modules. With one technical sergeant, two staff sergeants, three senior airmen and 18 airmen 1st class, the team is an unusually young shop, said Tech. Sgt. Kellis Leon-Guerrero, 727th EACS digital maintenance NCOIC, but it excels at its work.

"The young troops in my shop are some of the hardest working Airmen I have ever worked with," said Sergeant Leon-Guerrero. "Considering the complexity, diversity and importance of the systems they maintain,

these young Airmen have demonstrated they have what it takes to keep Kingpin in control of the skies over Iraq."

With a little more than two months to go in their deployment, Lieutenant Wanliss and the men and women of the 727th EACS continue to remain focused on the task at hand. However, the team admits just opposite of the dark, cold operations modules the lieutenant works in, they long for the warm, bright, Florida paradise awaiting them back home.

Military milestone



Photo by Staff Sgt. Neal Joiner

Capt. Erik Fiederer, 34th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, prepares to exit his plane after reaching the 1,000 flying hour milestone. Fighter pilots usually only fly long sorties while deployed, which makes it difficult to accumulate hours.

DFAS Web site moves

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Defense Finance and Accounting Service public Web site moved to a new location on the Internet, officials announced March 2.

The old site, www.dfas.mil, will remain available through March 31. Then, users will be redirected to the new site, www.dod.mil/dfas, and links to pages on the previous site will generate an error message notifying users of the move, officials said.

Webmasters who link to the site or pages within the site should review their links and update them accordingly, officials said.

The move will enhance the performance of the site by providing redundancy to prevent down time and by providing an opportunity for enhanced features in the future, officials said.

“Our goal is to provide the best service and products possible to the men and women who defend

America,” said Claudia Bogard, the service’s corporate communications director. “With this move, our customers can rely on DFAS for faster access to information whenever they need it from anywhere around the globe at any hour of the day or night.”

Officials said the move will also provide the following benefits:

- Increase the speed of the site by more than 12 times.
- Improve search capability to allow DFAS content to be found on any of dod-dot-mil sites.
- Allow DFAS content to be found at www.dod.mil/dfas, www.defense.mil/dfas, www.pentagon.gov/dfas, www.defense.gov/dfas, www.defenselink.mil/dfas or www.defense.gov/dfas.
- Create stronger alignment between DFAS and DOD public Web sites.
- Reduce the burden of public Web traffic to DFAS networks.

Anti-malaria medication

As a reminder, servicemembers in Iraq are not required to take anti-malarials. People may discard the pills in a trashcan, but not the container, since it may have personal information on it. For more information, call 443-7304.

From the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing First Sergeant:

All Air Force members must wear reflective belts around the waist at night, regardless of uniform worn.

Belts will be worn with the DCU, flight suit, individual body armor, official Air Force PT uniform, and conservative PT gear.

Steaming cup of joe



Photo by Staff Sgt. Neal Joiner

Airman 1st Class Jennifer Quintanilla, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group, waits for her receipt during the grand opening of Green Beans Coffee shop in H-6. The Green Beans Coffee is open from 6 a.m. to midnight daily and serves pastries, traditional and gourmet coffees, teas, juices, espresso and frozen drinks.

General Jumper commends CENTAF Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Andrea Knudson

U.S. Central Command Air Forces-Forward Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper made time to visit two forward-deployed locations recently during a trip to the region for the Middle Eastern Air Symposium.

He received an operations update at U.S. Central Command Air Forces-Forward headquarters at one location, before visiting top performers assigned to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at another.

At the headquarters, Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, CENTAF commander, and other leaders briefed General Jumper on current activities and high-visibility programs across their area of responsibility. Of special interest were presentations on the use of airlift to mitigate ground convoy casualties in Iraq's dangerous "Sunni Triangle" area, and airpower's support for security operations enabling the recent Iraqi elections. They also briefed support for the fledgling Iraqi Air Force.

CENTAF's mission is to furnish integrated airpower supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as well as operations in the Horn of Africa. Its assets are drawn from joint and coalition forces

and include fighter, airlift, tanker, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft.

CENTAF forces have contributed significantly to ongoing operations supporting the war on terrorism, General Jumper said.

"Look at most of the intelligence, the surveillance... the Predator and fighter sorties that are being flown, the unbelievable amount of tactical airlift every day moving things around... I think it's a pretty good impact. It's not only in Iraq, it's in Afghanistan. And what are the results? We've had two elections," he said.

For Iraq's historic elections, General Buchanan said, "CENTAF helped create a safer environment by supporting Iraqi and coalition operations to detect, deter and disrupt terrorists.

"We also enabled successful democratic elections by keeping combat aircraft over key hot spots and by transporting officials and ballots from the independent election commission for Iraq to and from critical polling areas," he said.

CENTAF people simultaneously protected crucial Iraqi infrastructure. Additionally, they provided security for coalition convoy missions and backed up ground troops in contact with enemy forces, officials said.

Throughout U.S. Central Command this

past year, CENTAF Airmen have flown about 70 fighter sorties and 30 reconnaissance missions. They have flown about 3,000 passengers, moved 400 to 500 tons of cargo and unloaded about 2 million pounds of fuel daily. Aircraft also flew injured people out of theater as needed and performed a variety of other specialized missions.

CENTAF officials met the heavy demands of the latest air and space expeditionary force rotation and major Army and Marine troop rotations while increasing convoy relief to support supply operations. Since October, C-130 Hercules increased their daily tonnage 210 percent, officials said.

The contributions CENTAF Airmen have made to the war on terrorism and the corresponding humanitarian operations reflect just how important each team member is, officials said.

"What you're doing is huge," General Jumper said. "It's going to make a difference for the whole world. People are our most valuable asset, and every person should recognize (he or she is) part of a bigger picture.

"What we're demonstrating is the power of the vote – democracy in action. And it's all because of the efforts of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines doing the nations' work."

Mission first, safety always

By Capt. Mike Tkacz

332nd Expeditionary Contracting Squadron commander

Mortar rounds are fired at us frequently here. We live, work, and operate in a dangerous environment while performing our duties from day to day.

Some of this risk is unavoidable and necessary in order to accomplish our mission. However, there is a different type of risk we sometimes place on ourselves that is both avoidable and unacceptable. This type of risk is probably our greatest threat to our safety and well being. It is derived from the act of complacency and is very preventable.

I vividly recall my last moments on U.S. soil before boarding the flight headed to the AOR. There were a few commanders gathered with a large group of Airmen and Soldiers for one last prayer. It was at this moment I was

struck with a strong conviction of reality. The possibility not only existed, but it was very likely there would be casualties. We were heading into a war zone where death was a reality. The next time I joined a prayer group would be during a Patriot Detail.

I have no doubt our fallen comrades gave their lives honorably and should be regarded as America's true heroes.

However, there is still a nagging question that does not relent. How many of these deaths were due to complacency? Was it possible to have prevented at least one?

There is a very dangerous philosophy I suspect many people have adopted since arriving here. The belief that dictates one will die without any regard to one's choices or actions.

This is acceptable up until the point we begin to use this philosophy to accept and justify complacency. My own

belief, based on Christianity, is that only God will ultimately decide when it's time for us to depart this life. However, books within scripture such as Proverbs and Ecclesiastes give instruction and advice to live as one with wisdom during your life. "Do not be a fool – why die before your time?" (Ecclesiastes 7:17b).

We have an enormous responsibility for ourselves and each other. Safety needs to be much more than an occasional practice.

When you set an example and take the time and action to ensure another's safety, you are acting as a leader.

Remember, age, rank, gender, and career field are not prerequisites for setting an example and acting as a leader. If you do not step up and correct others when you see unsafe acts and fail to comply with safety standards, you may have passed up an opportunity to save a friend's life.

In this hostile and hazardous environment, failure to adhere to safety practices could lead to disastrous results. Some of the safety practices are: proper wear of IPE when required (to include plates); equipment maintenance, including proper cleaning of assigned weapons (also, proper clearing of weapons and storage of ammo); compliance with vehicle inspections and safe driving practices, such as obeying traffic laws and wearing a seat-belt; wearing a reflective belt during hours of darkness; having your "wing man" present by using the buddy system, especially during hours of darkness; and donning IPE and finding cover during an alarm red.

The bottom line is while our mission will remain our first priority, safety should be an integral part of our culture and never regarded as another one of our priorities.

Honor Guard distinction



Photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Wood

Command Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, presents Master Sgt. Chris Flanagan, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, with a Balad honor guard patch. The base recently received honor guard patches for members to wear on their desert uniforms.

The honor guard practice is held at 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Town Hall. Prior experience is not required.

Volunteers interested can show up to practice or visit <http://blab-web-n.blab.aorcentaf.af.mil/>.



Leishmaniasis Season

Sandfly season begins toward the end of March and one of public health's concerns is preventing leishmaniasis disease.

Sand flies are found all over Iraq, including on Balad.

Not all sand flies carry the disease, but reports from some Iraq locations indicate very heavy populations of sand flies.

Some servicemembers deployed where sandfly numbers are high are reporting around 100 bites per person.

So far, there have been more than 750 servicemembers deployed in Southwest Asia diagnosed with cutaneous leishmaniasis (the milder form) and successfully treated.

Leishmaniasis is an infection caused by protozoa in the 'genus leishmania.' The transmission of the disease occurs through the bite of an infected female sand fly.

The disease can either be visceral (internal form) or cutaneous (skin form). The skin form, otherwise known as the Baghdad Boil, causes mild to severe skin lesions that heal on their own. Healing could take months or years and can leave scars. The internal form causes fever, weakness, wasting, spleen enlargement, and lowered blood cell count. The internal form is generally fatal if left untreated.

To prevent this disease, use DEET insect repellent on exposed skin, treat uniforms and bed nets with permethrin, tuck bed nets under the mattress, and limit outdoor activities during dawn and dusk.

If someone suspects they have been bitten by sandflies, they should immediately seek medical care.

For more information, call public health at 443-7304.

Meet your neighbor



Tech Sgt. Sean Warner

Home station: Travis AFB, Calif.

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

Hobbies: I enjoy motorcycles and electronic gadgets.

How do you contribute to the mission? I am the contracting officer for the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. My job is to legally purchase requirements needed by CE to accomplish their mission. As of today, I've processed over \$3 million in requirements.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? The creature comforts, my motorcycles and track days. Travis AFB is a couple of hours from three different racetracks in the Northern California area. I'd usually be at the track once a month. There are no tracks in Iraq that I know of..

COMM TIPS

Classified information and Technology:

- Classified information should not be placed on an unclassified computer or network.
- If someone finds classified information on an unclassified system, they should stop all work, disconnect the computer from the network and contact their work group manager.
- Official government information shouldn't be sent to a commercial e-mail account.
- If there's a need to transfer classified information to an unclassified network or computer, work group managers should be contacted.
- When in doubt, contact work group manager.

Air Force Religious Schedule

Protestant

Sundays:

9 a.m. • Traditional – Hospital
11 a.m. • Contemporary
Worship – Town Hall
5:30 p.m. • Inspirational
Prayer – H-6 Chapel

Roman Catholic

Daily:

When Catholic Chaplain is
available, Mass • 7:30 p.m. –
H-6 Chapel
Confessions – Offered prior to
Daily Mass

Saturdays:

7:30 p.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel

Sundays:

9 a.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel
2 p.m. • Mass – CJSOTF
Chapel
3:30 p.m. • Mass – JSOAD-AP
Chapel

Latter Day Saints

Sundays:

7 p.m. • Sacraments – H-6
Chapel
8 p.m. • Sunday School – H-6
Chapel

Fellowship and Study

Daily:

8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers
Fellowship – H-6 Chapel
9 p.m. • Band of Brothers
Prayer – H-6 Chapel

Sundays:

2 p.m. • Protestant Bible Study
– Hospital
7 p.m. • Catholic Study –
Chapel Fellowship room

Tuesdays:

7:30 p.m. • Purpose Driven Life
– Chapel Fellowship room

Wednesdays:

7 p.m. • Purpose Driven Life –
Chapel Fellowship room

Thursdays:

5:30 p.m. • Purpose Driven Life
– Hospital
7 p.m. • Latter Day Saints
Study Group – Chapel
Fellowship room

Fridays:

5 p.m. • Experiencing God–
Chapel Fellowship room
7:30 p.m. • Women's Bible
Study– Hospital

Know what this is?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of correction tape was first identified by 1st Lt. Ricky Cam, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing base plans.

Sustainer Movie Schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today, March 11

3 p.m. - Man of the House
6 p.m. - Man of the House
7 p.m. - Cheerleader show presented
by MWR
9 p.m. - Man of the House

Saturday, March 12

3 p.m. - Aquatic with Steve Zissou
6 p.m. - Constantine
8 p.m. - Comedy hour presented by
MWR

Sunday, March 13

3 p.m. - Man of the House
6 p.m. - Aquatic with Steve Zissou
9 p.m. - Hitch

Monday, March 14

3 p.m. - Elektra

6 p.m. - Constantine

9 p.m. - Blade Trinity

Tuesday, March 15

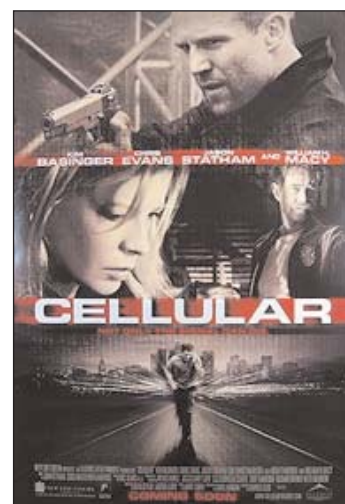
3 p.m. - Oceans 12
6 p.m. - Coach Carter
9 p.m. - Man of the House

Wednesday, March 16

3 p.m. - Coach Carter
6 p.m. - Man of the House
9 p.m. - Aquatic with Steve Zissou

Thursday, March 17

3 p.m. - Cellular
6 p.m. - Meet the Fockers
9 p.m. - Man of the House



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Public Affairs Chief

Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
Web Administrator

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Red Tail Flyer Editor

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the public affairs staff of the 332nd AEW at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

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